GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2524
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2008
SHARING OF INFRASTRUCTURE
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile towers set up by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL)/Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in the country especially in the State of Gujarat, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal for sharing of passive infrastructure, including sharing of towers for mobile services in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof;

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Sir, BSNL has set up 30,595 mobile towers including 1,873 towers in the State of Gujarat. Details are given in Annexure-I. MTNL has set up mobile towers 897 in Delhi and 746 in Mumbai as on date.

(b)&(c) BSNL Gujarat circle has shared 7 towers on reciprocal basis with Airtel and in Maharashtra 14 towers have been shared with Airtel, Vodaphone & Idea on reciprocal basis. Details are given in Annexure-II.

BSNL has entered into an agreement for sharing of passive infrastructure with six Infrastructure providers viz; M/s GTL, M/s Essar, M/s Quipo, M/s XCEL, M/s TVS and M/s ASTER, for mobile services in the various parts of the country.So far no tower has been taken on sharing.

Besides this, BSNL has entered into agreement with Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), DOT for provisioning of 6175 mobile towers, which shall be shared with other mobile service providers to provide mobile / wireless services in the various parts of the country as per USO guidelines.

In Delhi, MTNL has shared 21 BTS sites of different private operators till date and similarly infrastructure at 6 Base Transceiver Station (BTS) sites of MTNL Delhi has been shared by different private operators.

In Mumbai, MTNL is pursuing the sharing of passive infrastructure for BTS sites with other mobile operators and independent infrastructure providers. MTNL has already shared 1 site erected by M/s GTL Infra Ltd. At Afzal Compound, Mumbai MTNL has already entered into agreement for sharing sites with M/s Reliance Infrastructure Ltd. MTNL is also in talks with other operators for sharing of passive infrastructure of BTS sites.